

FAA Security Notice Concerning Flight Operations in Yemen

Due to terrorist activities and civil unrest, there continues to be a significant risk to civil flight operations in Yemen. Reports indicate that terrorists and insurgents in the region possess man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) and indirect fire weapons and have routinely threatened to attack international civil aviation. Because of the extremely high security threat level in Yemen, the U.S. Government remains very concerned about possible attacks against U.S. citizens, facilities, businesses, and perceived U.S. and Western interests, and the Department of State urges U.S. citizens to defer travel to Yemen.

Terrorist organizations that pose a threat to civil aviation continue to be active in Yemen, including al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). The group publicly claimed responsibility for the attempted bombing of Northwest Airlines Flight 253 in December 2009 and the October 2010 attempted bombing of two U.S. cargo aircraft using explosives concealed in printer cartridges shipped from Yemen. They are also suspected as the perpetrators of a foiled aviation bomb plot in May 2012.

In addition, Sana'a International Airport (OYSN) is a potential target, because it is used as a military airport, as well as for commercial flights. The airport has been shut down on numerous occasions due to threats or attacks. These shutdowns have also included threats against arriving and departing aircraft. At the time of these shutdowns, no NOTAMS were issued by the Civil Aviation and Meteorological Authority of Yemen. Airports may close or become inaccessible with little or no notice.

U.S. operators planning operations in the territory and airspace of Yemen at or below FL240 must obtain current threat information and comply with all applicable FAA regulations and directives, and provide advance notice to the FAA at aeo-citewatch@faa.gov with specific flight details. Additionally, U.S. operators must report security incidents to the FAA at 202-267-3333 or at aeo-citewatch@faa.gov.

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